

STATE OF ILLINOIS REQUEST FOR APPLICATION BROADBAND DEPLOYMENT PROGRAM – ROUND TWO

BACKGROUND

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA)¹ contains over \$7 billion in grants and loans for broadband-related projects. Federal grant and loan applicants with matching commitments receive preference over those without them.

As part of its multi-faceted approach to ensuring broadband access to unserved and underserved areas of the state, the State of Illinois is helping Illinois applicants leverage public and private investment for ARRA's competitive opportunities. The "Illinois Jobs Now" Capital Plan² contains a \$50 million Broadband Deployment Fund which is being administered by the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) to provide funding commitments to successful ARRA grant and loan applicants who expand and strengthen broadband, health information technology, telemedicine, distance learning, or public safety network infrastructure in Illinois.

Based on Round One award notifications received to date, DCEO anticipates up to \$35 million will be available in Round Two.

STATE PRIORITIES

A goal of the Illinois Broadband Deployment Program is to maximize broadband-related opportunities in Illinois by investing in projects eligible for federal funding under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act that will promote economic development and job creation. Priority funding will be provided to projects that build broadband infrastructure and accelerate the deployment and adoption of broadband in unserved and underserved communities in Illinois, as defined by ARRA.

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

Illinois-based entities that apply under the federal Notice of Funding Availability for the [Broadband Initiatives Program](#) or the [Broadband Technology Opportunities Program](#) are eligible to apply for state matching funds under this request for application. Existing broadband service providers are required to have provided its current broadband service data to the State's broadband mapping initiative in order to be eligible for a funding commitment.

ELIGIBLE COSTS

State funding may only be used for bondable capital expenditures for Illinois broadband projects (please refer to Appendix I for general information regarding the bond guidelines). Illinois DCEO intends to offer financial commitments of up to 20% of the total project cost of for a single broadband project; however, DCEO maintains discretion in awarding funding commitments that exceed this amount. Competitive applications will include a local match of at least 10% of the total project cost. State funding is contingent upon the federal approval and award of a broadband project. If awarded ARRA funds, applicants will be required to enter into a subsequent grant agreement with DCEO to secure the state funding commitment. Please also note that the timing of a state grant agreement is contingent on the cash balance of the Build Illinois Bond Fund and a valid state appropriation.

¹ Pub. L. 111-5

² Illinois Public Act 96-0039

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APPLICATION EVALUATION AND SELECTION PROCESS

An inter-agency review panel will evaluate each application using the same evaluation criteria for the relevant ARRA funding opportunity. The review panel will evaluate each project and develop a funding recommendation. The final decision to make a funding commitment will be made by DCEO. Applicants will be notified of the funding decision by March 10, 2010, via e-mail to the project contact(s) listed in the application.

APPLICATION DEADLINE

The National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) and the Rural Utilities Service (RUS) have established a March 15 deadline for federal Round Two applications. The application deadline for this state request for application is 12:00 PM on February 18, 2010.

CONFIDENTIALITY OF APPLICANT INFORMATION

Applicants are encouraged to identify and label any confidential and proprietary information contained in their applications. The State of Illinois will protect confidential and proprietary information from public disclosure to the fullest extent authorized by applicable law. Applicants should be aware, however, that state policy requires substantial transparency and may make publicly available on the Internet a list of each entity that has applied for a grant, a description of each application, the status of each application, the name of each entity receiving funds, the purpose for which the entity is receiving the funds, the amount of a state award, the project location, the number of jobs created and retained, and other information.

GRANT APPLICATION GUIDELINES

Applicants are required to complete the following table and submit a complete copy of their NTIA or RUS Round Two application or as much information available at the time. Applications will be evaluated based on the information provided. Incomplete information may adversely impact your ability to secure a funding commitment. A PDF file of the complete application should be submitted electronically to gov.broadband@illinois.gov by February 18, 2010.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Questions regarding this application should be submitted in writing to gov.broadband@illinois.gov. All questions and subsequent answers will be posted on the www.broadband.illinois.gov website.

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APPLICANT ORGANIZATION			
Legal Name		Telephone Number:	
Address:		Fax Number:	
City:	Zip Code+4	Federal Taxpayer Number:	
Web Address	Date Incorporated:	Number of Employees:	
CONTACT INFORMATION			
Salutation:	First Name:	Last Name:	
Title:	Telephone Number:	Fax Number:	
Address:			
City:	State:	Zip + 4:	
E-mail (REQUIRED)			
PROGRAM			
BIP: <input type="checkbox"/> Last Mile <input type="checkbox"/> Middle Mile <input type="checkbox"/> Satellite Project <input type="checkbox"/> Rural Library Broadband <input type="checkbox"/> Technical Assistance			
BTOP: <input type="checkbox"/> Comprehensive Community Infrastructure <input type="checkbox"/> Public Computer Centers <input type="checkbox"/> Sustainable Broadband Adoption			
PROJECT BUDGET			
Total Project Cost:	Total Matching Funds Requested:	Federal Grant Request:	Federal Loan Request:
\$	\$	\$	\$